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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,446	11/28/2003	Hyang-Kyun Oh	O2MICRO 99.06 CON DIV	1222
32047	7590	01/10/2005	EXAMINER KIM, PAUL L	
GROSSMAN, TUCKER, PERREAULT & PFLEGER, PLLC 55 SOUTH COMMERICAL STREET MANCHESTER, NH 03101			ART UNIT 2857	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/724,446

Applicant(s)

OH ET AL

Examiner

Paul L Kim

Art Unit

2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 24-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21, 23 and 30-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cyras et al in view of House et al.

Cyras et al teaches a method for detecting expansion cards comprising: detecting a card being inserted into a slot, determining the type of card using PC Card signal lines, and enabling an IC card (Smart Card) reader logic or PC Card logic when the type of card is determined (col. 5, line 61 to col. 6, line 28). Cyras et al, however does not teach a MUX logic providing communication between the card and bus controller logic. House et al teaches a method of employing a bus extender that uses MUX logic to provide communication between bus controller and peripheral devices (fig.

- 3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Cyras et al, so that a MUX logic is used to provide communication, as taught by House et al, so as be able to allow efficient signal transfer between the peripheral device and bus.

3. Claims 23 and 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cyras et al in view of House et al.

With regard to claims 23 and 30, Cyras et al teaches an integrated controller comprising means for detecting and operating a first expansion card (fig. 1, part 19) and second expansion card (fig. 1, part 20), and a bus interface controller to provide communication between the first and second expansion card and a bus interface using conventional PC card communication protocols (fig. 1, part 18 & col. 5, lines 61+). Cyras et al, however, does not specify logic sets for detecting the first and second cards. House et al teaches a method of employing a bus extender that uses logic sets to provide communication between the bus and peripheral devices (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Cyras et al, so that the system includes logic sets for communicating with expansion devices, as taught by House et al, so as to be able to detect and operate expansion cards efficiently.

With regard to claims 31 and 32, Cyras et al teaches expansion cards being a PCMCIA or Smart card (col. 5, lines 60-65).

With regard to claim 33, Cyras et al teaches the PC Card protocols comprising PCMCIA protocols (col. 5, lines 65+).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 24-29 allowed.

Claim 22 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: With regard to claims 24-29, the prior art of record does not teach a system for the detection of a plurality of expansion cards that comprises a first socket that complies with a PC card specification, a second socket that complies with a specification other than a PC card, and a controller that provides communication between the first and second card using PC card protocols.

***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21, 23, and 30-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

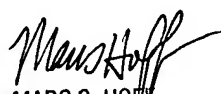
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-2217.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on 571-272-2216. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

PK  
January 3, 2005

  
MARC S. HOFF  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800